

## KIDS AT THE FAIR

Yesterday Was Their Day and They Enjoyed It.

## THEY RODE SHETLAND PONIES

At Two Watermelons for a Nickel, and Gorged Themselves With Peanuts and Other Indigestible Stuff.

The children went to the fair early yesterday and took from the very first the impression that they owned the entire exhibit. They took the grand stand by storm, and when the races were called they filled the reporter's box and hung over the edges in festoons like so many bats. Previous to that time they had invaded every nook and corner of the big fair grounds and had loaded themselves with picture cards, fads, blotters, yank sticks, popcorn, peanuts, candy, watermelon and a heterogeneous mass impossible to describe. They saw everything, touched everything, absorbed everything and ate everything with a vengeance. One of them even went so far as to pick a scale from the back of the mud turtle boy on exhibition in one of the tents. Another boy pulled the hair on the face of the woolly dog to see if it was real and was rewarded by having his face slapped. The hair was real and the girl was alive, two conditions somewhat doubted by the general public, which had not seen the lion, horses, cattle, sheep and other prize animals were ignored by the small boys who went to the fair to have a good time and not to see common every day horses and cows.

## Rode the Ponies.

One man reaped a harvest by erecting a riding ring and letting the children ride side saddle ponies for a time apiece. He would mount the children and when each pony was provided with a rider he would crack his whip and master fashion, and the embryo kings and queens of the saddle ring would circle hilariously around to the music of the whip. The merry-go-round man had to entertain a more adult crowd, country lassies of a charming age riding the mankin ponies and convulsively clutching the mane of the stiff-legged beast as though life or limb would be the forfeit of a fall.

Incidentally the mothers were there and some of the fathers too, deeming maternal protection insufficient. The mothers laid aside gloves that they might tackle the numerous wants of the youngsters barehanded, and the mothers seemed to have as good a time as the children.

Another feature of the attendance was the preponderance of the old soldiers, a special rate having been made for them. It was a real pleasure to see their faces brighten as they mingled with the scurrying crowd and watched the antics of the carless, happy children. The old soldier was caught by the glittering gear of the rider of the silver was exchanged for a worthless bauble.

It was a children's day, and the small fry were happy. All the schools in the city were closed and something like a million of the people were in the city. It was a happy, jolly crowd, and it was not seen again until the great West Michigan fair of 1923 releases the children from the thrall of school and invites them with its many attractions.

## Scenes at the Close.

Not the least interesting item of an agricultural and industrial fair is the close. All is bustle and confusion. The eating booths dispose of pies and cakes at half price and sandwiches go for a song. A nickel will buy two watermelons, each one large enough to last an ordinary family a week. Dogs are delivered from the anxious seat and boxed up, yelling and howling, for another dreary ride in a baggage car. Cattle bellow with fright as they are ousted from their comfortable stalls to begin the homeward journey. Pigs grunt and squeal, hens cackle and croak, draymen shout and yell and every living creature does his best to add to the dissolving pandemonium, except the sheep which, though they cluster together in a dense, frightened mass, maintain a total quietude utterly at variance with their fear-dilated eyes. Then the crowds rush for the gates. A wild scramble ensues and in the confusion a woman trips on her dress and falls. Before she can rise, half a dozen men have rushed over her using her back for a step. She finally manages to regain her feet and again essays, this time with better success, to reach the turnstile and afterwards the train. Of course many persons lose their temper and vow that they will never go again, but the next year's fair sees the same crowd, and it there were two fairs every year the same persons would attend.

## YESTERDAY'S RACES.

Silver Cloud and Lady Bell Were the Winners.

Silver Cloud, Jr., a beautiful gray stallion, was the favorite in the pacing race and showed his speed by taking the first heat in 2:14. Passmont, Guarantee and Maud Adair were out of the race from the start. Just before the second heat a dash of rain fell, but it did not interfere with the races and the horses were sent away without mooring. This heat resulted in a victory for Silver Cloud, though Guarantee, Parson Arney's horse, left little daylight between the two. Maud Adair took third place easily. The time was 2:24. Passmont was distanced. Silver Cloud won the race in the third heat without much effort. Guarantee and Maud Adair coming home in the same order as before.

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## A Success Financially.

Treasurer Brewer said yesterday that the gate receipts will be ample to pay all premiums, but several exhibitors doubted their premiums back to the society. The gate receipts were \$150. About \$200 has been refunded by those who received premiums. The crowd yesterday was not so large as on former days, but it was all the managers of the fair had anticipated. The managers extended an invitation to the school children to attend the fair yesterday with free admission and a large portion of the children living in the south part of the city was there. They enjoyed themselves in the usual manner around the lemonade and peanut stands, the merry-go-rounds and the swings.

## RACING AT KENT.

Troop Richmond Won the Mile Handicap Bicycle Race.

The races were the most interesting since the opening of the fair. The first race was the mile handicap bicycle race, which was run at 2:30. There were eight entries, the contestants starting as follows: T. S. Richmond on the scratch, E. J. Curtis, G. E. Richmond, F. S. Gilbert, G. S. Chase, fifty yards in the lead; W. N. Souser, Claude George, A. I. Sailer, 100 yards in the lead. The race was a spirited one, and Troop Richmond kept steadily gaining on the contestants all around the track. The spectators wild-swinging their hats as they passed, each of the riders. They came in at the wire in the following order: Troop Richmond first, Charles Richmond second, W. N. Souser third, time, 3:07.